

APRIL 08, 2022

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH ACTION HUI POLICY PRIORITIES

Wild Nights at the Capitol!

Policy intern Leah Delos Santos, Melissa Pavlicek and Dr. Shawn Kana'iaupuni spent 6 hours in total at the Hawai'i State Capitol on Friday, April 1st in order to testify on behalf of OYAH in support of SB 1128, relating to creating a commercial enterprise revolving fund, and SB 2115, relating to reducing solitary confinement for youth, to the House Finance Committee.

Both bills passed as is, a huge preliminary victory for OYAH and other nonprofit organizations! The group was also able to meet and talk with various legislators, spreading the word about OYAH and its goals and policy priorities.



(← Leah Delos Santos, Rep. Patrick Branco, and Dr. Shawn Kana'iaupuni)



(^^ Leah Delos Santos, Senator Chris Lee, and Dr. Shawn Kana'iaupuni)

(← Leah Delos Santos and Rep. Adrian Tam)

SB 1128 Sign-On Letter

The next step in OYAH's support of SB 1128 is a sign-on letter, which is currently being written and signed onto by other organizations and groups, such as Bishop Museum, Boys & Girls Club of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiian Education Council, Kanaeokana, Kamehameha Schools, The Queen's Health Systems, and more.

The policy team plans to hand deliver the letter to the conference committee members once those are designated.

See the letter here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wP6MK-DRgK_2b7odJGqXu75Ssbmq5NyR/edit

College student advocates have been engaged by members of the Opportunity Youth Action Hui to advance initiatives in support of the hui member organizations, including Native Hawaiian equity in the criminal justice system, workforce training and development, trauma-informed care, and the education, mental health and well-being of youth.

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